

## *The Humbling Power of God's Mercy*

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**Introduction:** If we could see as God sees we would become more like God.

- A. The battle between God and Satan is one for our hearts and minds.
  - 1. Satan seeks to draw us into selfishness through lies and fear.
  - 2. God seeks to draw us out of ourselves through revealing His nature to us.  
**(Jn 17:3)**
- B. God has allowed for suffering in this world so that men might be humbled and turn to God.
  - 1. Whatever one may suffer in this life in nothing compared to facing God in your sins. **(Jn 8:24)**
  - 2. The glimpse into eternity Jesus gave us with the rich man and Lazarus teaches us a about place where there is no mercy. **(Lk 16:24-26)**
  - 3. We face a real challenge to see our need of mercy in this life.

### ***I. God's nature teaches us about mercy***

- A. God powerfully revealed His nature on Mt. Sinai. **(Ex 34:6-7)**
  - 1. Whenever God gives a self-revelation of Himself we need to listen carefully.
  - 2. Man's concept of mercy and God's are very different.
  - 3. Knowledge of this truth about God will be vital to knowing how to approach Him!
- B. What is mercy? **(Mt 5:7)**
  - 1. Merciful is from Gr. "*eleemon, eleos*," meaning "mercy, pity, especially on account of misery" (Berry). "...good will towards the miserable and afflicted, joined with a desire to relieve them" (Thayer).
  - 2. Mercy denotes **both** an attitude and an action.
  - 3. God's mercy denotes His willingness to give what we alone must have from Him.
- C. God's mercy is how men are drawn to Him in evangelism.
  - 1. When men see what God is like they will open their hearts. **(1 Tim 1:13, 16)**
  - 2. Christians delight in giving what they have learned of God's mercy to others! **(2 Cor 1:3-4)**
  - 3. All Christian growth is based upon our willingness to approach our God who is both merciful and tender. **(Heb 2:17-18; Lk 1:78)**
  - 4. We teach our children about God in our homes by the attitudes and words we share. What does your children know about the mercy of God?

### ***II. Do we know of our need for mercy?***

- A. Satan has worked to fill men's hearts with pride and thus blinded them to their need of God. **(2 Cor 4:3-4)**
  - 1. Honest men can see their sins and their need of forgiveness.
  - 2. Honest men can see the uncertainty of life and their need of help.
- B. Examples of men who saw their great need for mercy.

1. The demon possessed. (Mt 15:22)
  2. Leprously victims. (Mt 17:15)
  3. The blind. (Mt 20:10)
  4. These were greatly humbled *by their circumstances*.
- C. God's giving of mercy often changed those who received it.
1. What motivated Mary Magdalene? **(Lk 8:1-2)**
  2. Only a few received mercy in this way. All need mercy when it comes to their sins.
  3. Why are people blind to the need of forgiveness? The need involves seeing the unseen and seeking God's wisdom.
  4. We must be taught to see. When we do *we will be crushed and humbled*.  
**(Joel 2:13-14)**
  5. We do not need a life of ease lest we become hardened to God's mercy.  
**(Lk 18:13-14)**

### ***III. The motivation of mercy***

- A. When Mercy is realized we are motivated to draw nearer to God. **(Rom 12:1-2)**
  1. We must never let our teaching be merely intellectual.
  2. We must give great emphasis to this. **(Mt 23:23)**
- B. We can work with our brethren. **(Phil 2:1-4)**
  1. Left on our own we will give the short end to others.
  2. What is this church know for? We must fight for this! **(Col 3:12-14)**
- C. We need merciful people as examples and as teachers! **(Rom 12:8-9)**
  1. How many of you received mercy from a school teacher?
  2. What examples of mercy have motivated you in your life?
  3. God gives us these people to help us. Who do you look up to?
- D. We worship God because of His mercy.
  1. We sing because of mercy. Why do some not sing? **(Rom 15:9-12)**
  2. We learn how to pray and we are motivated to pray! **(Dan 9:18-19)**
  3. We serve a God who delights in mercy!
- E. We do not quit because of mercy. **(2 Cor 4:1-2; James 5:10-11)**
  1. If we judged ourselves or our brethren by worldly standards we will quickly become discouraged.
  2. How did the Pharisees look at others? **(Mt 9:10-13)**
  3. We get out of self and are willing to help others who cannot help us.  
**(Lk 6:32-36)**
  4. We learn true justice and give to God the place He holds as judge.  
**(Lk 6:37-38)**
  5. When we live to give and not get we have learned the key to faithfulness. We have become like God!

***Conclusion:*** Let us never be found without mercy! **(James 2:13; Mt 5:7)**